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JACK MONROE™ IS NOMAD™

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IN "THE ART OF THE STEAL!"

Jack Monroe. A failed super soldier. A fallen super hero. Wandering the highways and byways of this vast land, Monroe tries to discover himself, by discovering America.

Stan Lee presents

NOMAD

1209407 53

THE PERIMETER GROUNDS OF COMM-TECH RESEARCH, OUTSIDE OF CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA.

THREE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MERCENARY OUTFIT CALLED THE SIX PACK WORK THEIR WAY TOWARD A REAR ENTRANCE.

THEIR NAMES ARE KANE, GRIZZLY AND DOMINO. THEY ARE COMPLETE PROFESSIONALS.

THEY HAVE BEEN HIRED TO RETRIEVE AN EXPERIMENTAL PROTOTYPE UNDER DEVELOPMENT HERE.

TO THEM, THIS IS A CAKEWALK ASSIGNMENT.

THE ART OF THE STEAL

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BUT WHAT THEY'RE ABOUT TO STEP IN ISN'T CAKE.

HAMMER-- WE'RE AT THE SECURITY ENTRANCE NOW--HAVE YOU CRACKED THE LOCK YET?

I HAVE IT NARROWED DOWN.

SLIDE THE KEYCARD THROUGH THE LOCK AND LET ME CRUNCH SOME NUMBERS.

BRRRRMMMM

THAT WASN'T SO BAD NOW, WAS IT?

I'LL BE HAPPIER WHEN WE'RE INSIDE, GRIZ.

DON'T KID YOURSELF, DOM--YOU WON'T BE HAPPY NO MATTER **WHERE** YOU ARE.

LET'S DO A QUICK RECONNAISSANCE OF THE FACILITY...

...GRIZ--LET SPEEDY GONZALES LOOSE...

VZZZ 4 ZZZ

0:0006

I'M NOT PICKING UP ANYTHING ON THE CAMERA-LINK.

LET'S MOVE IT IN SOME MORE, CREW-- FOLLOW THE ROUTE THAT SPEEDY LAID OUT.

HUMPH, LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HAD THE SAME IDEA WE DID.

STEALING NASA PROPERTY ISN'T AN IDEA, DOM, IT'S A JOB.

THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.

A CONSIDERATE THIEF.

HOW NICE.

LET'S SEE IF OUR GENTLE-MAN ROBBER IS STILL HERE.

MOTION DETECTOR IS PICKING SOME-THING UP.

HAM--ANY DETAILS?

ONE MAN. MOVEMENT. COMING FROM THE LAB WE NEEDED TO ACCESS.

HE'S WALKING RIGHT TOWARD YOU.

EVERYONE IN POSITION?

KILL THE LIGHTS.

BUT DON'T KILL THE TARGET--ALL RIGHT, DOM?

YEAH, FINE.

FREEZE!

OH, $%#¢ ME--!!

HOW MANY? I COUNT THREE.

NO PROBLEM. JACK MONROE DOESN'T GIVE UP UNLESS IT'S MORE THAN FIVE GUNS ON HIS BUTT.

FACHOW FACHOW FACHOW

"FACHOW--?" THOSE WEREN'T BULLETS. WHAT AM I DEALING WITH HERE?

HEY! WE SAID, FREEZE!

OZONE SMELL. SOME SORT OF LASER GUNS?

WONDERFUL. THESE GUYS ARE TOO HIGH-TECH FOR ME.

BEST WAY TO STOP THEM AND SAVE MY OWN SKIN...

...IS TO TAKE A LOW-TECH APPROACH...

TEKT

GRENADE--?

NO!

FAGHOW

GRIZ, YOU MORON!

TOSS A STUN DISC, HAVE THESE TESTOSTERONE RAMBOS BLOW IT UP...

FTHSSSTHSS

...AND SET OFF THE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

BEST WAY TO CATCH THE THIEVES WHO CAUGHT THE THIEF IS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO **ALL** OF THEM.

SMART MOVE, GRIZ!

HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT TO BET THAT THE WHOLE PLACE IS WIRED INTO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT?

SORRY.

IT WAS A %^$EING **FRISBEE** HE THREW AT US, YOU KNOW!

HE'S GONE.

BOYS--CAN WE GET THE #$¢% OUT OF HERE?

I SAID I WAS SORRY.

YOU NEED NEW **CONTACTS**, DON'T YOU?

DID THAT GUY HAVE THE DEVICE WE WERE LOOKING FOR?

COULDN'T TELL, BUT I'D GUESS, YES.

HAM--PREP US FOR A **DUST-OFF**--WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SMOKEYS AND BADGES HERE IN A SECOND.

VRRMMM

CHITTY-CHITTY BANG-BANG. VTOL BY FIFTY. ZERO TO TWO HUNDRED. FIVE SECOND PEEL.

AWRRRRRRRM

A FLYING WINNEBAGO?

FWASHOOM

WITH PICKUP THAT CAN'T BE BEAT.

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO THIS TIME?

AND HOW DO I GET MYSELF OUT?

SIMPLE. WASH MY HANDS CLEAN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

CARA SANTOS

AND THAT MEANS GETTING THIS THING I WAS HIRED TO STEAL INTO THE HANDS OF THE PERSON WHO HIRED ME.

AND THAT MEANS HAVING TO PUT ON A MONKEY-SUIT AND GO SWING IN THE MARTINI JUNGLE.

THE PLACE IS PRETTY RITZY. THE CUBAN EMIGRÉS IN FLORIDA ARE TRYING HARD TO BRING BACK THE PRE-CASTRO DAYS.

Collazo's

I SPOT MY CONTACT A MILE AWAY.

MS. ROYA.

MR. MONROE.

CARMELLA ROYA IS THAT KIND OF A WOMAN. AND A Ph.D IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING TO BOOT.

I ASKED YOU TO DO THIS FOR THE RIGHT REASONS, MR. MONROE.

AS THE INVENTOR OF THE SYSTEM--

--I COULD NOT ALLOW OUR GOVERNMENT TO USE THIS FOR LESS THAN NOBLE PURPOSES.

I DON'T ASK QUESTIONS, MS. ROYA. USUALLY, I'D JUST RATHER NOT KNOW.

I ENCOUNTERED SOME OPPOSITION. I THINK SOMEONE ELSE WAS LOOKING FOR THIS THING.

IF I WERE YOU, I'D WATCH YOUR BACK...

COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA. SUNRISE.

WATER'S NICE. COME IN.

NO, THANKS. JUST SEEING YOU RELAX FOR A CHANGE IS NICE ENOUGH.

BOOK OF FIVE RINGS MIYOTO SASHI

BESIDES, AFTER SIX BIG MACS, I DON'T THINK MY DIGESTIVE SYSTEMS COULD HANDLE THE STRAIN.

MCSEA SICK?

MCHEAVE.

MCGROSS.

HAMMER'S FINALLY GOT SOMETHING!

SMITH

MCABOUT TIME!

PRETTY PENNY-ANTE STUFF.

HIS NAME IS JACK MONROE.

MUSCLE HAS MEMORY

MEMORY

IT GETS BETTER. COMPUTER: SCROLL SCREEN.

FAILED GOVERNMENT SUPER SOLDIER. FORMER PARTNER TO THE CAPTAIN AMERICA OF THE FIFTIES.

PUT INTO A DEEP-FREEZE. WOKE UP A WHILE LATER. CALLED HIMSELF NOMAD.

HE'S HAD MORE GUYS WANTING A PIECE OF HIM THAN A GO-GO DANCER IN HOUSTON.

SO, MONROE HAS A CHECKERED PAST. BIG DEAL. NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE.

MUSCLE HAS MEMORY

MONROE HAS SOME HISTORY WITH OUR CLIENTS.

AGREED. IT JUST HELPS TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE INVOLVED IN.

I WONDER HOW THEY'LL REACT WHEN THEY FIND OUT HE STOLE THE PROTOTYPE?

AT THIS POINT, THE ONLY WAY TO FIND THAT DEVICE-- IS TO FIND MONROE.

SO LET'S START LOOKING...

WE DON'T TELL THEM. COMPUTER: PURGE.

MINNEAPOLIS. TWO DAYS LATER.

WHERE IS SHE?!!

KACHASHK

UMM...

...NNMM...

...NOW HOW ARE YOU *EVER* GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT I DID TO YOUR DARLING LITTLE *DAUGHTER*...

...IF YOU *KILL* ME BEFORE I CAN TELL YOU?

YESTERDAY, YOU *KIDNAPPED* MY BABY.

TODAY, YOU TELL ME YOU'LL GIVE HER BACK-- BUT *ONLY* IF I DO YOU A *FAVOR*.

I'M TELLING YOU--*NO!*--WE'RE *FINISHED!*

GIVE ME *BUCKY* BACK NOW, OR I'LL KILL YOU!

DON'T TELL ME, CHERÉ, THAT YOU'RE STILL CALLING HER BUCKY?

SIGH

THE POOR CHILD.

AND STOP THIS NONSENSE ABOUT KILLING ME, ALL RIGHT?

NO MORE FAVORS BETWEEN US, EPŪRER. NO MORE GAMES.

YOU MAY CALL YOURSELF THE FAVOR BANKER-- BUT I'M CLOSING OUR ACCOUNT RIGHT NOW!

YOU WILL DO NO SUCH THING, GIRL. YOU HAVE NOT RECIPROCATED IN KIND, FOR THE FAVOR I DID YOU.

I GAVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET BUCKY BACK. YOU DID NOT MANAGE TO KILL JACK MONROE LIKE I ASKED.

FOR NOW, UNTIL YOU HELP ME, THE CHILD WILL BE QUITE SAFE. I HAVE FIVE OF MY OWN, YOU KNOW.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU WILL DO A LITTLE FAVOR FOR ME...

...I NEED A CERTAIN POLITICAL FIGURE TO BECOME PLACED IN A... COMPROMISING ...POSITION...

...HIS NAME IS SENATOR BARTHOLOMEW INGRID...

THE FARMHOUSE OF JILL COLTRAIN, CLUTIER, IOWA, ONE DAY LATER.

HOW CAN YOU BE *SURE*, BART?

I MEAN, LOOK AT ALL THE SIGNS -- MY BROTHER JACK IS ALIVE --

--THAT FRENCH GUY, HAY-POOR-AY, WAS ASKIN' QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU.

WHAT IF WE'RE FOUND OUT AGAIN? I CAN'T GO THROUGH WHAT OUR *PARENTS* WENT THROUGH, BART!

JILL... PLEASE, BE *STRONG*... OUR ORGANIZATION HAS PLANNED TOO LONG, TOO HARD --

--FOR *ANYTHING* TO STOP US.

BUT WHAT IF JACKIE FINDS OUT WE'RE --

DO NOT CALL HIM, "JACKIE"!

DO NOT USE TERMS OF *ENDEARMENT* FOR HIM! YOUR BROTHER DESERVES *NO* SYMPATHY FROM US! *NONE!*

HE *RUINED* ALL OUR LIVES! ALL OF THEM!

I CAN TAKE CARE OF GISCARD EPURER'S ADVANCES MYSELF --

--AND I HAVE SOMEONE WHO WILL SOON TAKE CARE OF YOUR BROTHER AS WELL... *PERMANENTLY!*

LIVING DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN A GREYHOUND TERMINAL IN ARMPIT, SOUTH CAROLINA.

I GOT FOUR GRAND IN MY POCKET, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHEN MY NEXT PAYCHECK WILL BE, SO I TAKE THE CHEAP WAY OUT.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I'M HEADED. NORTH-EAST, I GUESS.

WITHOUT BUCKY, THOUGH, I FEEL LIKE I HAVE NO DIRECTION, NO GOAL.

FOR THE LAST SIX WEEKS SINCE ALL THAT CRUD WITH FAUSTUS WENT DOWN, EVERYTHING'S FELT SO... EMPTY.

I THOUGHT OF GOING TO IOWA... MAYBE SEEING IF ANYONE FROM MY FAMILY WERE STILL ALIVE...

OBSERVER
HOT YOUNG ARTIST DIES IN FATAL INCIDENT

...BUT I'M AFRAID THAT EVEN IF THEY WERE, THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE ME...

MONROE.

I ALWAYS GET MORE WORRIED WHEN IT COMES OUT LIKE A STATEMENT INSTEAD OF A QUESTION.

CAN I HELP YOU?

INTERESTED IN MAKING IT EASIER FOR US?

I DON'T THINK SO.

YOU'D BEST COME OUTSIDE, MATE.

BEST FOR WHO?

FOR YOU.

AND EVERY INNOCENT PERSON IN THIS DIVE...

...WHICH I GRANT YOU, PROBABLY ISN'T MANY.

I DON'T HAVE IT ANYMORE, FOLKS.

WE FIGURED AS MUCH.

BUT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHO HIRED YOU TO STEAL IT.

OH, C'MON, GUYS .. YOU'RE THE FANCY PROFESSIONALS

--YOU KNOW I CAN'T TELL YOU WHO DID THAT!

BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHO PUT ALL THREE OF YOU DOWN--

THWUD

--AND HIS NAME IS JACK--

FWUMP

EXCUSE ME, DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS "KRACK"?

NO, THAT WAS JUST THE SOUND OF HIS WRIST BREAKING.

YOU BROKE MY HAND?!

ACTUALLY, MATE, YOU BROKE YOUR HAND.

I JUST KIND OF STOOD HERE, MINDIN' THE DAY.

...GOOD POINT.

FWOOO

YEAH...

...RIGHT.

WHOA--

THAPP

NOT BAD.

I MEAN, YOU'VE ACTUALLY LASTED MORE THAN *TEN SECONDS.*

CUTE. IF I WAS TEN YEARS YOUNGER, I *MIGHT* ACTUALLY BE ENJOYING THIS.

DOUBLE OR NOTHING.

YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING CONCEPTION OF FOREPLAY.

I'B HAD ENUBB OF YOU...

...SYNTHORG: TWANSFER-- WIGHT ARM--

THE GUY'S ARM TURNS **METAL** AND THE CROWD TURNS TO **JELLY.**

I TURN TAIL AND GET MY BUTT OUT WHILE THE GETTING IS--

--GOOD...?

VSHHHHHHHH

GEEZ.

NOW **REALLY,** MR. MONROE--

--WE **DO** KIND OF LIKE YOU--

--IN THE **SAME** WAY THAT A **KID** LIKES TO PULL THE WINGS OFF A **FLY.**

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHO HIRED ME, FOLKS.

I MEAN, PROFESSIONAL HONOR ASIDE AND ALL THAT--

--WE STOLE THE PROTOTYPE FOR THE *RIGHT* REASONS.

OH, WONDERFUL, WE'RE DEALING WITH *ROBIN HOOD* NOW!

MONWOE, IF WE TELL YOU WHO HIRED *US*, YOU'LL KNOW WHY YOU SHOULD TELL US WHO HIRED *YOU*.

SO...?

THE SUPREME HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIVISION.

YOU TELL US, JACK-- WHY WERE *YOU* HIRED TO STEAL IT?

SHIELD--? WHY WOULD *THEY* HIRE YOU TO STEAL SOMETHING FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT?

THE INVENTOR WANTED IT BACK.

NOK NOK

HELLO--MONROE... DO YOU HAVE *ANY*, 5%#¢ING CLUE WHAT THAT PROTO-TYPE WAS *FOR*?

WHEN SHE FOUND OUT WHAT THE GOVERN-MENT PLANNED TO DO WITH THE PROTOTYPE, SHE COULDN'T ACCEPT IT.

I THINK... WE'D BETTER FIND CARMELLA ROYA...

TWENTY-FIVE MILES OUTSIDE OF MIAMI. TWO DAYS LATER...

VHWRRRRRR

WRRRRRR

TIENES LA CARTERA, CARMELLA?

AQUI, RENÉ.

CHIK

ESTA COMPLETO, NO?

ES CLARO.

TU PLATA.

CHIK

ES UN PLACER HACER COMERCIO CON FIDEL.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME, GENTLEMEN.

THWAKKAPHOOM

THE MONEY--!

SHUK SHUK SHUK THAP

THIS DEVICE, WHEN HOOKED UP TO A PLANE'S *RADAR SYSTEMS*, WAS GOING TO *SCRAMBLE* ALL THE *FREQUENCIES* THE *DEA* OPERATES ON.

WITH IT, YOUR *DRUG-LORDS* WOULD HAVE HAD A FREE RUN OF CUBA AND SOUTH FLORIDA FOR CARGO TRANSPORT.

AND *YOUR* COUNTRY WAS GOING TO USE IT TO *DISRUPT* ANY AND ALL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY *COMMUNICATIONS* ON CUBA IN THE EVENT OF A "*POTENTIAL CRISIS.*"

WHO'S ANY *BETTER* THEN, MR. MONROE?

WRONG AN' RIGHT RARELY MATTERS IN *OUR* LINE OF WORK, LADY...

...ONLY REALLY MATTERS WHO COMES OUT ON *TOP.*

IN THIS CASE, THAT'S *US.*

NICK FURY. DIRECTOR OF SHIELD. PRETTY COOL GUY, ACTUALLY.

COULD NEVER TELL IF HE WAS ONE OF "*THEM*" OR ONE OF "*US.*"

YOU GOTTA KINDA *ADMIRE* ANYONE WITH THE *STONES* TO WALK *THAT* LINE FOR AS LONG AS HE HAS, RIGHT?

PROBLEM IS... I'M THE ONE HOLDING THE PROTOTYPE.

...EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR *ME* TO MAKE A DECISION.

AND ALL OF A SUDDEN... I GET THE FEELING...

YOU KNOW...

...I'M GETTING AWFULLY TIRED OF **ALL** YOU CLOWNS!

KRASH

THAT

WAS

NOT

SMART.

YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH YOUR TOY, FURY--

--THEN ASK **HER** TO BUILD YOU ANOTHER ONE!

AND YOU GUYS WANT YOUR **MONEY** FROM SHIELD--

--THEN GO SCROUNGING IN THE TREES FOR THE PAYOFF THAT BLEW AWAY WHEN THE PLANE WENT UP.

AND CARMELLA ...YOU WANT TO DO **RIGHT** BY THE COUNTRY YOU **CAME** FROM--

--AS WELL AS THE COUNTRY YOU **LIVE** IN--

--THEN TAKE MY ADVICE--

--IGNORE **BOTH** OF THEM!

-ISMS DON'T MAKE FOR GOOD COMPANY.

(SEE YA) おばよ!

END